

TRANSLATION

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY

EXAMINATION REPORT - Attachment

International file Ref. No. PCT/EP/99/08177

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As closest-coming state of the art there is to be regarded DE-A-19800314. From this there is known a relay with the features of the generic term of Claim 1.

From this the object of the independent claims is distinguished by the features of the characterizing part of Claim 4.

The combination with these distinguished features brings it about that with a relatively slight circuitry expenditure a plurality of relay contacts are arranged on a relatively small space.

Main Claim

1. Relay with coupling element, which relay consists of at least one spring bracket (1 or 13), in which a drive (5) is arranged which acts over an actuator (4) on at least one active contact spring (2) which cooperates with at least one passive contact spring (3) anchored in the respective spring bracket (1, 13), the contact spring (2, 3) being electrically contactable over respective connection contacts (7), characterized in that the relay is mechanically couplable with at least one further relay of the same kind over respective coupling devices (8) of the spring bracket (1, 13) by means of a coupling element (14) constructed as a separate component, the electric connection contacts (7) of the contact springs (2, 3) of the relay being arranged in the zone of the respective coupling arrangements (8) and the coupled relays lying in mirror-image symmetry to the coupling element (14).

## Claims

1. [DELETED]

2. Relay according to claim 1, characterized in that the active (2) and/or passive (3) contact springs of the spring brackets (1 and 13) of these relays are also electrically coupled with one another over the separate coupling element (14).

*claim 1*  
3. Relay according to ~~one of claims 1 or 2~~, characterized in that the coupling of the coupling element (14) is constructed locking and again releasable.

*claim 1*  
A 4. Relay according to ~~one of claims 1 or 2~~, characterized in that the coupling of the coupling element (14) is constructed rigid.

*claim 1*  
A 5. Relay according to ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~, characterized in that the coupling element (14) consists of an insulating material and has at least one partition wall (15) insulatingly separating the contact springs 2,3; 2,21) of

the respective coupled relays, on which (partition wall) lateral projections (16) are molded which engage into allocated receiving openings (8) on the respective spring bracket (1 and 13) of the respective coupled relays.

6. Relay according to claim 5, characterized in that between the lateral projections (16) of the partition wall (15) grooves (23) are formed, which are suited for the reception of contact springs (3; 21).

*claim 1*

7. Relay according to ~~one of claims 1 to 6~~, characterized in that parallel to the lengthwise axes of the receiving openings (8), in the respective spring brackets (1, 13) of the relays there are arranged slots (9) opened toward the face side, into which the passive contact springs (3, 21) are thrust.

*claim 6*

8. Relay according to ~~one of claims 6 or 7~~, characterized in that for the electrical connection of the passive contact springs (3) of the spring brackets (1, 13) of the two relays, at least one double contact spring (21) is slidable into the grooves (23) of the coupling element (14).

9. Relay according to claim 8, characterized in that the electric coupling of the passive contact springs of the two spring brackets (1, 13) occurs by the means that first at

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